

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

159

**Virginia Academy of Science,
2013, Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting**

The Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting, sponsored by the Virginia Academy of Science, was held at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, in Richmond, Virginia, on October 26, 2013. Undergraduate students and mentors from 12 different colleges and universities in Virginia, submitted 31 proposals and presented posters at the annual event. Each year the attendance and number of colleges participating in the Undergraduate Research Meeting has increased. This year 76 attendees enjoyed a luncheon and lecture by Dr. Michael Fine, Professor of Biology, at Virginia Commonwealth University, *The Evolution of Talking Fish*.



Dr. Michael Fine, Professor of Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University,
Richmond, Virginia

The first Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting was held in 2001. This particular research meeting is held to give undergraduate student researchers, working with Virginia Academy of Science mentors, the opportunity to develop a research proposal and present it using a poster presentation format. Students must submit grant applications as research proposals, develop their posters outlining their research plan, and present them to judges at the meeting. Several judges volunteer to spend time reviewing both the grant proposals and the posters with the student researchers, asking

them questions, to evaluate their work. Five students, with the highest scores, are awarded research grants of up to \$500 each, to conduct their research throughout the year. In addition to the monetary award, each student receives a one-year VAS membership and are required to attend the Annual Meeting in the spring to report on the results of their research.

This years invited speaker was Dr. Michael Fine, a fish neurobiologist at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Fine has spent much of his professional career studying acoustic communication in the oyster toadfish, catfish, and sciaenid fishes.

The VAS gives a special thank you to our volunteer judges for the Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting:

Participating Institutions

Christopher Newport University
Ferrum College
George Mason University
Liberty University
Longwood University
Norfolk State University

Old Dominion University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Wesleyan College
Washington and Lee University

Judges

Dr. David W. Crosby, Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University
Dr. Chris Catanzaro, College of Agriculture, Virginia State University
Dr. Louis Landesman, Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University
Dr. Yixiang Xu, Agricultural Research Station, Virginia State University
Brandon Lind, Dept. of Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University
Lynn VanderWielen, Dept of Health Administration, Virginia Commonwealth University
Alex Enurah, School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University
Dr. Deborah O'Dell, Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Mary Washington
Dr. Patrick Young, Senior Research Associate, Dupont.